

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A straw holder for supporting a drinking straw in a mouth of a bottle, said holder being made from a sheet material and comprising:

a straw support portion dimensioned for placement across a mouth of a bottle and comprising an aperture formed by at least one slit in said sheet material designed to receive a straw therethrough and to vertically support said straw with respect to said support portion; and

a bottle retaining portion comprising at least one turn extending around said retaining portion, said at least one turn comprising a first turn having an end attached to said straw support portion, and dimensioned to extend around an outer surface of the bottle, wherein said at least one turn extends spirally around said straw support portion, said at least one turn having an inner edge with an inner radius and an outer edge with an outer radius wherein said inner and outer radii increase substantially continuously around said at least one turn.

2. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 1, wherein said bottle retaining portion comprises a plurality of turns including a second turn attached to said first turn.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 1, wherein said bottle retaining portion comprises a plurality of turns including at least one successive turn following said first turn to form a continuous spiral, the inner radius of said at least one successive turn corresponding to the outer radius of a preceding turn.

5. (currently amended) A straw holder for supporting a drinking straw in a mouth of a bottle, said holder comprising:

a straw support portion dimensioned for placement across a mouth of a bottle and comprising an aperture designed to receive a straw therethrough and to vertically support said straw with respect to said support portion; and

a bottle retaining portion comprising at least one turn extending around said retaining portion, said at least one turn comprising a first turn having an end attached to said straw support portion, and dimensioned to extend around an outer surface of the bottle, wherein said at least one turn extends circularly about said straw support portion from said first end to a second end, said at least one turn having an inner edge with an inner radius and an outer edge with an outer radius wherein said inner and outer radii are substantially constant around said at least one turn, said retaining portion further comprising a radial connecting portion connected to said inner edge at said first end of said first turn and to a radially outer edge of straw support portion and connecting said first end of said first turn to said straw support portion.

6. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 5, wherein said at least one turn comprises a plurality of turns including at least one successive turn following said first turn,

said retaining portion further comprising a radial connecting portion connecting the first end of said at least one successive turn to the second end of a preceding turn.

7. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 6, wherein the inner radius of each successive turn corresponds to the outer radius of a preceding turn.

8. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 5, wherein said straw retaining portion is substantially disk shaped and has a radius, said inner radius of said first turn corresponding to said radius of said disk.

9. (currently amended) The straw holder as in claim 1, wherein ~~the straw holder comprises a resilient~~ said sheet material is made of one of paper, plastic and cardboard having one of cuts and slits in said sheet material defining said straw support portion and said bottle retaining portion.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A straw holder for supporting a drinking straw in a mouth of a bottle, said holder being made from a sheet material and comprising:

a straw support portion dimensioned for placement across a mouth of a bottle and comprising an aperture formed by at least one slit in said sheet material designed to receive a straw therethrough and to vertically support said straw with respect to said support portion; and

a bottle retaining portion comprising at least one turn extending around said retaining portion, said at least one turn comprising a first turn having an end attached to said straw support portion, and dimensioned to extend around an outer surface of the bottle, wherein said straw support portion and said bottle retaining portion are integrally formed of ~~a resilient~~ said sheet material and said straw holder has a central axis perpendicular to said sheet and passing through said aperture, said straw holder exhibiting both axial and radial elasticity relative to said axis, said axial elasticity being substantially greater than said radial elasticity.

12. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 1, wherein said straw support portion comprises an adhesive disposed about said aperture for engaging the drinking straw when disposed in said aperture.

13. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 1, wherein said aperture is dimensioned to receive a straw in an interference fit.

14. (currently amended) A straw holder for supporting a drinking straw in a mouth of a bottle, said holder being made from a sheet material and comprising:

a straw support portion dimensioned for placement across a mouth of a bottle and comprising an aperture formed by at least one slit in said sheet material designed to receive a straw therethrough and to vertically support said straw with respect to said support portion;

a bottle retaining portion comprising at least one turn extending around said retaining portion, said at least one turn comprising a first turn having an end attached to said straw support portion, and dimensioned to extend around an outer surface of the bottle; and

adhesive disposed on one side of the straw support portion that contacts the mouth of the bottle.

15. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 1, wherein the straw support portion covers the entire mouth of the bottle.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 1, wherein the at least one turn is dimensioned to engage the outer surface so that the straw holder is prevented from vertically lifting off of the mouth of the bottle.

18. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 14, wherein said at least one turn extends spirally around said straw support portion, said at least one turn having an inner edge with an inner radius and an outer edge with an outer radius wherein said inner and outer radii increase substantially continuously around said at least one turn.

19. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 14, wherein said at least one turn extends circularly about said straw support portion from said first end to a second end, said at least one turn having an inner edge with an inner radius and an outer edge with an outer radius wherein said inner and outer radii are substantially constant around said at least one turn, said retaining portion further comprising a radial connecting portion connecting said first end of said first turn to said straw support portion.

20. (currently amended) The straw holder as in claim 14, wherein ~~the straw holder comprises a resilient~~ said sheet material is made of one of paper, plastic and cardboard having at least one of cuts and slits in said sheet material defining the straw support portion and the bottle retaining portion.

21. (previously presented) The straw holder as in claim 20, wherein said straw support portion covers the entire mouth of the bottle.

22. (new) The straw holder as in claim 11, wherein said sheet material is made of one of paper, plastic and cardboard having at least one of cuts and slits in said sheet material defining the straw support portion and the bottle retaining portion.